

Judicial Administration Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
July 13, 2001

The Judicial Administration Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center on Friday, July 13, 2001, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

1. Members present. Scott R. Bowers, Roland W. Chamblee; George J. Heid, Clarence D. Murray, Richard T. Payne, P. Thomas Snow, David L. Welch and Frances C. Gull, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Guests present. Ms. Lilia Judson, Executive Director, State Court Administrator's Office; and Mr. Andy Hutcherson and Brianne O'Brien, I. U. Public Opinion Laboratory were also present.
4. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting of the committee on May 11, 2001 were approved.
5. Weighted caseload update.
 - a. Members of the committee reviewed the "scoring" the number of judicial actions of cases in the file audits to be performed by the I.U. Public Opinion Laboratory. Mr. Hutcherson distributed cases in the following categories: A Felony, C Felony, B Felony, Protective Order, Mortgage Foreclosure, Civil Collections, Civil Plenary, Dissolution, Infraction and Ordinance Violation which the committee reviewed. The committee agreed if one long order was entered on one day, it should be counted as one order, not separate orders; "copy to counsel" means an order was entered; the setting of a hearing is an order; a case can have more than one sentencing, e.g. a sentencing hearing that occurs on more than one day, but only one judgment when the sentencing order is entered; a guilty plea should only be scored one time as a guilty plea, and not a plea and an order.
 - b. Mr. Hutcherson distributed Infractions and Ordinance Violations cases and said he found no judge time in any of the cases he selected. The committee members agreed to discuss the amount of time applicable in the average infraction or ordinance violation case.
 - c. If questions arise about whether a judge made an action in a particular case, the I. U. Public Opinion Lab should first approach the local judge. If he or she is not available, then the following committee members may be contacted: Judges Gull and Judge Murray for criminal cases; Judges Bowers and Snow for civil cases; and Judge Payne and Mr. Bercovitz for juvenile cases.
 - d. The committee members agreed to select case to study from all cases filed, rather than closed cases, in the categories the committee is studying, for 1995, 1996, 1999 and 2000. The I.U. Public Opinion Lab will then randomly select cases to study for the number of judicial actions. This will permit a mix of older cases to get the entire range of

judicial actions and newer cases to see present practices of judges. Mr. Bercovitz agreed to ask Mr. Jezek whether these cases should be selected in the same proportion in each year, or more from the most recent years as was done in the previous study.

6. Next meeting. The committee agreed to meet again Friday, August 10, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.; September 12, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon in conjunction with the Judicial Conference; Friday, October 12, November 9, 2001, and Friday, January 11 and February 8, 2002, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law